



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! St. Patrick's Day takes place each year on March 17, the traditional religious feast day of Saint Patrick. Did you know there are 34.7 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry? That's more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.



GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MARCH 2013

NEW COMMUNITY PARK

Highland Community Foundation enhancing 45th Street corridor

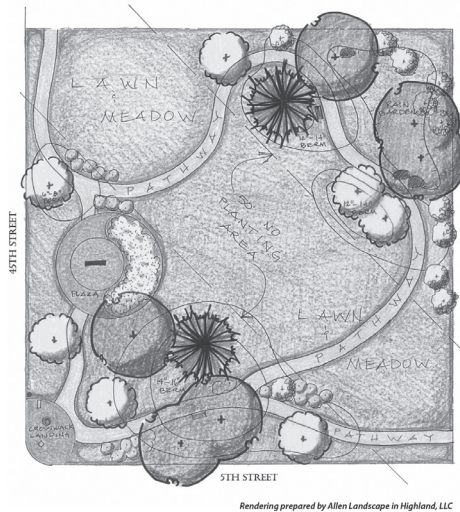
With \$55,000 in donations, the Highland Community Foundation is moving forward with plans for a new park at 5th and 45th streets.

Community Foundation President Richard Underkoffler said Public Works will be installing infrastructure for a water line extension, curbs, gutters and an asphalt overlay on Fifth Street.

"We expect the civil work to be done by June. BP Pipelines is allowing us to use the land. Because there are pipelines underground, passive recreation is the only real use for the property," he said. "That will be followed by an extension of the electrical service and installation of an irrigation system, a substantial portion of which is expected to be donated by local landscaper, Mark Hirschak of Rainmaker Irrigation, Inc."

The plan is to take the park construction as far as possible until available funds are exhausted.

"Our mission is to raise funds for projects the



town cannot afford," he said. "We will be looking to raise another \$95,000 to complete the landscaping for this project. It will be a very tangible sign of the work we plan to do as part of the Highland Community Foundation." 🍀

RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE NEW GARBAGE, RECYCLING BINS

Beginning in May, everyone in town will have new garbage and recycling receptacles and a modified schedule for garbage day.

Garbage will be picked up every Tuesday while recyclables will be collected every other week.

The Sanitary Board solicited bids for a new waste hauler earlier this year and awarded the contract to Republic Services in February.

Public Works Director John Bach expects the new service to go into effect May 1. Information will be distributed with the delivery of the carts.

As part of the new program, every household will receive a 95-gallon wheeled bin for garbage and another for recyclables. Seniors concerned about

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Public Works will host two public meetings to help acquaint residents with the new trash containers, new pickup schedule and answer questions.

WHEN: 2 and 6 p.m. **MARCH 20**

WHEN: Lincoln Center, 2450 Lincoln St.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5069 or email Pubic Works Director John Bach at jbach@highland.in.gov.

managing the bins will receive smaller, 65-gallon carts instead. Carts are blue with contrasting lid colors to differentiate garbage from recyclables.

The town will realize significant savings under the terms of the new contract, which is planned to be passed along to homeowners. 🍀

ORDINANCES NOW ONLINE

If you want to know the specifics of the town's traffic ordinances or the laws that govern when Rover needs to get his new tags, the town is making it easier.

Town ordinances are now housed electronically - as well as on paper - and searchable at www.highland.in.gov.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said the electronic version will be updated almost immediately after a new law is passed or modified while the paper version will be revised quarterly.

This was the first comprehensive ordering of ordinances by subject matter since 2003. "The Code Publishing Corporation made this possible and was the least costly," Griffin said. "I am pleased with the product and service."

ROTARY DONATIONS

Highland Rotary donated \$1,000 to the Fire Department for a specialized ventilation rescue saw and \$500 to Habitat for Humanity to help finance training materials for new homeowners.

"Community service is important to our mission" Rotary President Keith Bruxvoort said. "We want to help when and where we can."

The Corn Roast at Main Square Park generates income for the club's community service projects.

CRISIS PREVENTION

Police descended on Highland High School in February to master the skills necessary to engage an active shooter.

Part of an annual exercise focused on immediate response to an emerging situation, this year's Rapid Deployment Training centered on the possibility of an emergency in the schools.

"The characteristics of a crisis caused by an active shooter are such that many traditional, tried-and-true police practices must either be discarded or modified," Chief Pete Hohnicki said. "We have all learned that while we cannot prevent a crisis, it is better to have a plan and no crisis rather than a crisis and no plan."

FIGHTING LOCAL CRIME

A four-hour violence reduction effort along Ridge Road between Colfax and Cline avenues in Griffith resulted in:

- ✓ 48 traffic stops
- ✓ 14 citations
- ✓ 35 warnings
- ✓ 3 arrests for narcotics
- ✓ 1 arrest for traffic violations

Griffith, Munster and Highland participated in the initiative, which was funded through a federal grant. Plans are in the works for additional collaborations in Highland and Munster.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

The Highland Police Department's Taser instructor will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **MARCH 13**

WHERE: Highland Library

RESERVATIONS: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - vice president
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WARD 4

BRIAN NOVAK - president
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WARD 5


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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN INITIATIVE TO KEEP STREETS SAFE

When it comes to catching criminals who peddle drugs, guns, even profit from human trafficking, Highland police are making an impact.

As part of a team of officers from Highland, Hobart and Crown Point who are partnering with Indiana State Police on Domestic Highway Enforcement, Officer Brian Stanley and Detective John Swisher patrol the highways that crisscross the region about 40 hours a month when they are not on duty for the town.

Participating municipalities receive a share of what is seized as part of the initiative, which is fully funded by a federal grant.

"When we are on the highways, our job is to hunt people who are trying very hard to blend in," Stanley said. "People who see us pulling people over may think it's for nothing, but it

never is. We have to have a legitimate reason for stopping someone but our goal is never to do a routine traffic stop. We're always looking for something bigger to keep the streets safe."

Already, Stanley, Swisher and the other team members have been successful in taking significant amounts of drugs and guns off the streets.

"I love this kind of work and making traffic stops," Swisher said. "You never know what you'll find – drugs, money, guns, even a runaway from Florida.

"Law-abiding citizens think of highways as a way to get from one place to another, but they would be surprised how much the highways are used to transport criminals. If we can intercept them, there's a good chance we can stop a crime. Every time we intercept a criminal or take a gun off the street, we consider it a win for the region." 🌿

TOWN SPOTLIGHT: HIGHLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH CAUSES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HIGHLAND

The Highland Community Foundation was founded on a wing and a prayer that residents and businesses, alike, would get behind the effort to create a stronger and more vibrant community.

An idea broached in 2006 was the catalyst for the group. It would be another four years of thought and effort before it would become a reality.

"There was an exploratory committee that worked for six months before determining that a community foundation was feasible," said Richard Underkoffler, president of the foundation board. "As members were solicited to be part of the first board of directors, we started meeting and formulating a strategic plan."

A website followed as did the group's efforts to request donations from the region's businesses and industries to begin building an endowment fund that will be used to finance projects determined to be value-added to the community and out-of-reach of local government budgets.

"For more than two years, we have been the blessed stepchild of the Legacy Foundation. They have done practically everything for us," he said.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Highland Community Foundation serves as a catalyst to connect people with causes that improve the quality of community life in Highland.

OFFICERS: President Richard Underkoffler, Vice President Adam Gawlikowski, Treasurer Ed Stone and Secretary Jim Dal Santo.

BOARD MEMBERS: Terry Krooswyk, Cecile Petro, Richard Krooswyk, Pat Popa, Victor Garcia, Jim McShane, Lisa Kusiak, Patty Dunham, Judy Vaughn, Craig Chism and Kathy Grimler.

INFO: The foundation needs donors like you who want to advance community projects. Your support will create a permanent legacy in Highland. For more information or to make a donation, visit us at: www.highlandcommunityfoundation.org.

"But, now, that is about to change. We held a very successful Oktoberfest last fall, which raised more than \$15,000. We applied for our own 501(c)(3) nonprofit status at the end of 2012 and hope to be approved by March. This is a golden opportunity for Highland to see just what we can do for our community when we pool support, combining resources for the greater good." 🌿

BEST OF HIGHLAND

The first-ever Best of Highland awards event produced a bumper crop of nominees from business, education and government whose efforts toward making the town a better place to live, work and play have been noticed.

Victor Garcia, president of the Highland Chamber of Commerce, said after the chamber office began receiving a healthy batch of nominees late last fall, the only hard part was trying to narrow the field down to finalists and then to the ultimate winner in each category.

"We were very happy with the number of nominations we received from the folks in town and from chamber members. As it turned out, most of our nominations were from residents," Garcia said. "It just goes to show how much people notice and appreciate what our town and school employees as well as our business owners are doing for our community. It was especially nice to see so many people who work hard behind the scenes get recognized."

INFO: This inaugural event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. March 7 at Wicker Park Social Center. Tickets are \$40 per person with a cash bar. For more info, call (219) 923-3666, email info@highlandchamber.com or visit www.highlandchamber.com.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

Cakes By Karen, Dining Solutions, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, Round the Clock, Texas Corral, Theo's Steak & Seafood, Town Club Restaurant and Tradition's Restaurant & Pub



CIVIL SERVANT FINALISTS

CIVIL SERVANT

John Breslin, Council of Community Events;
Kathy Deal, Highland Public Library;
Michael Griffin, Highland Clerk-Treasurer;
Frank Mrvan, North Township Trustee;
Cecile Petro, Highland Redevelopment

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ken Mika, Doug Turich

PARKS DEPARTMENT

David Ferrara, Sylvester Gardner, Laura Wanicki

POLICE DEPARTMENT/VIPS

Shawn Anderson, Lloyd and Linda Blissmer, Jerry Koedyker, Brandon Norris, Brad Snow, Pat Vassar

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

John Bach, Mike Pipta, Jeff Siple

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND

Rob Blumenthal, HHS Dean of Discipline;
Mike Boskovich, Superintendent; Amanda Johnson, Warren Elementary; Cheryl Kemp, HHS Kitchen Manager; Tom Marjai, HHS Night Foreman; John McCormick, Southridge Elementary; Kevin Trezak, Johnston Elementary; Amy Vezmar, HHS Counselor

CHAMBER AWARD FINALISTS

CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER

Michelle Anderson, First Financial Bank;
John Freyek, Citizens Financial Bank;
Carrie Upchurch, Standard Bank

BUSINESS PERSON

Dave and Kathy Gortat, Doctor's Pharmacy;
Terry Krooswyk, Krooswyk Trucking;
Gary and Shar Miller, Prompt Ambulance;
Nick and Pat Popa, Popa Heating & Cooling

CHAMBER VOLUNTEER

Liz Fledderjohann, New Life CRC; Bill Leep, Pleasant View Dairy; Vickie Rust, First Midwest Bank; Mary Shelton, Centier Bank; Judy Vaughn, Town of Highland

BEAUTIFICATION

Apex Construction, Lincoln Community Center,
Strack & Van Til, Traditions Restaurant & Pub

NO SKATEBOARDING

The new gazebo steps may look enticing to skateboarders but the Park Board wants any and all would-be daredevils to know that skateboarding is prohibited at Main Square Park.

Bicycles are also prohibited on the gazebo. Breaking the town law means incurring a \$45 fine.

The stairs and railings were replaced late last year and the Park Board is hoping the law will protect them from unnecessary damage.

LEARN FIRST AID & CPR

Learn the proper techniques for administering adult, child and infant CPR. Instructors will also teach participants to use an AED device as well as how to treat minor cuts, bruises and strains. Ages 15 and up.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **APRIL 6**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

COST: \$55/resident, \$58/nonresident

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **MARCH 30**

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

CHILDCARE SERVICE

The Lincoln Fitness Center offers childcare service for busy moms and dads who struggle to fit a workout into their daily schedule.

WHEN: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

COST: \$2 per visit or purchase an 18-visit punch card for just \$30.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

MARCH POP-UP GALLERY

Explosions of stunning color and design will be on display during the next Pop-Up Gallery from 4:30 to 8 p.m. March 14 at 2939-2941 Jewett St.

The town's Pop-Up Gallery project is a traveling art show and real estate showcase all wrapped up into one fun evening. The downtown rentals on display will be a pair of adjacent 2,200-square-foot office spaces.

The March Pop-Up Gallery will feature the signature styles of artists Leslie Lambert and Clinton Mason. Artwork on display is also for sale.

INFO: Call Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Celebrate spring with joyful tunes at the Highland Community Band's spring performance. There is no cost to attend.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **MARCH 7**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School

INTERESTED IN JOINING? Please email Steve Strains at sstrains@nirpc.org or Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

ANNUAL IRISH DINNER

Garfield Masonic Lodge invites all lads and lasses for a corned beef and cabbage dinner, which includes dessert, soft drinks and entertainment. Bring out the wee ones, too!

WHEN: 4 p.m. Saturday, **MARCH 9**

WHERE: Garfield Masonic Lodge No. 569, 2234 Martha St.

COST: \$8 adults, \$4 children.

INFO: Call Brent Johnson at (291) 201-7170, Tom Textor at (219) 712-9961 or Colin Peterson at (219) 781-2139.

HIGHLAND BAND CRAFT FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at the annual Highland Band Spring Craft Fair. The two-day event features jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **MARCH 9** and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, **MARCH 10**

WHERE: Highland Middle School

INFO: Call Frank Postulka (219) 924-9203 or email postulka@att.net.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for rare items, such as comic books, sports cards, Hot wheels, autographs and other memorabilia? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale. Register to sell your household items, toys, books, and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **MARCH 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

VENDOR FEE: \$26.75 for 10' X 10' space. \$42.80 per wall space. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNEY

Grab your lucky rabbit's foot and join the Highland Elks for an evening of Texas Hold 'Em. Sandwiches, chips and draft beer are included.

WHEN: Sign-up at 5 p.m. Saturday, **MARCH 23**. Start time is 6 p.m. Cash games at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Highland Elks Lodge, 3120 45th Ave.

ENTRY: \$60 with limited rebuys.

REGISTRATION: Between noon and 10 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge. Deadline is March 21. Early paid registration earns \$500 in bonus chips

INFO: Call (219) 922-8253.

HIPPITY-HOP-HOP HAPPENINGS

North Township Easter egg hunt

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Park for the 7th annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 1 to 12 are invited to hunt for eggs until all are found. DJ music, a moon walk bouncy house and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be part of the day's activities.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, **MARCH 16**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Pavilion

INFO: Call (219) 932-2530, extension 331.

Breakfast with the Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny and his other furry friends for a continental breakfast. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the event also features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny.

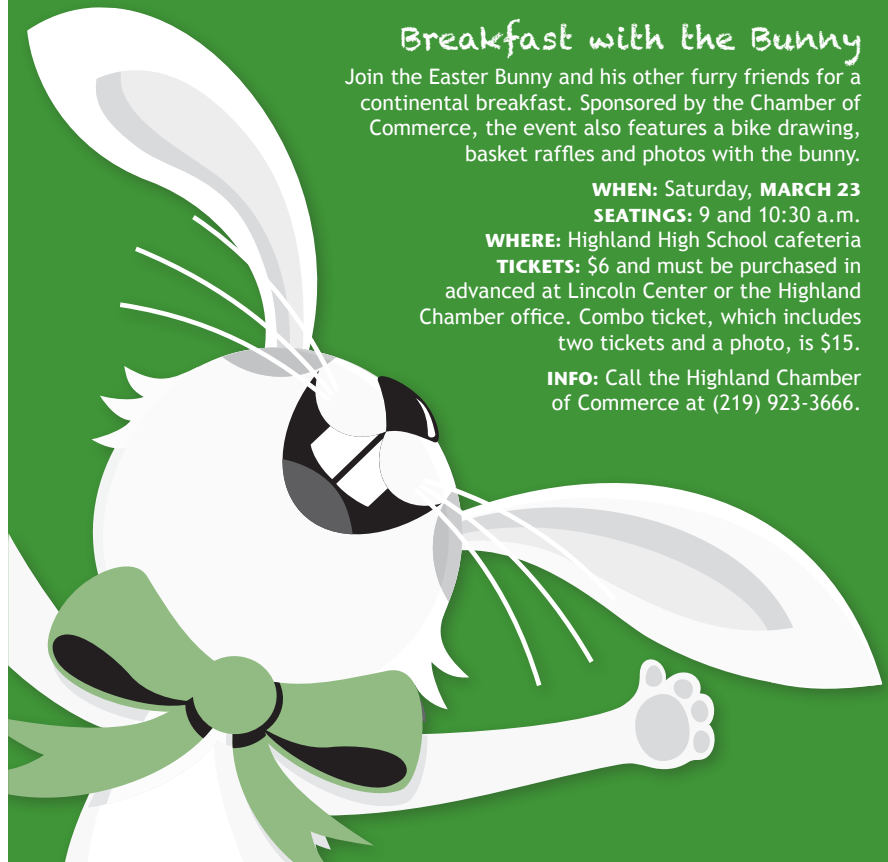
WHEN: Saturday, **MARCH 23**

SEATINGS: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High School cafeteria

TICKETS: \$6 and must be purchased in advanced at Lincoln Center or the Highland Chamber office. Combo ticket, which includes two tickets and a photo, is \$15.

INFO: Call the Highland Chamber of Commerce at (219) 923-3666.



GARDENING PROGRAM

Second in a series of free monthly gardening classes, Master Gardener Linda Knol will present a program on creating a beautiful garden through do-it-yourself ideas for landscape design.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, **MARCH 21**

WHERE: Highland Library

REGISTER: Call Kathy Deal at (219) 838-2394 or visit the Highland Library branch online at www.lcpln.org/branches/hi.htm and click on Highland Library Events.

BEGINNER GUITAR LESSONS

This fun and upbeat class will teach the fundamentals of guitar including basic chording, tablature and simple songs. Music is provided, but you must bring your own acoustic or electric guitar. Amps are not allowed.

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays,

MARCH 6 - APRIL 24 or MAY 8 - JUNE 26

WHERE: Lincoln Center

FEE: \$100 resident, \$105 nonresident

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.